Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims reflects the current status of all claims in the application:

Claim 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A therapeutic apparatus for stimulating healing of a wound in mammals, comprising:

a suction pump for providing a negative pressure to be applied to the wound;

a porous pad adapted to be positioned in contact with the wound and to be fluidly coupled to said suction pump for distributing the negative pressure to the wound, said porous pad ~~being permeable to fluids and~~ including a porous body having ~~at least a partial~~ an outer surface and an inner body, [[said]] a portion of the outer surface being adapted for contact with ~~a surface of said~~ the wound and having pores therein of a first average size, and ~~to enhance biocompatibility, said porous pad to be introduced onto or into said wound so as to be in contact with said wound and with said outer surface adjacent said wound and secured in or on said wound by a dressing cover for providing a seal around said wound and said porous pad,~~ [[said]] the inner body having pores therein of a second average size, wherein [[said]] the second average size is greater than [[said]] the first average size;

a dressing adapted to cover said porous pad and the wound for providing a seal to contain the negative pressure; and

a vacuum canister fluidly connected between said porous pad and said suction pump for collecting fluids ~~sucked~~ drawn from [[said]] the wound through said porous pad to said vacuum canister by the negative pressure. ~~connected to said porous pad through a drainage tube; and~~

~~a suction pump generating said negative pressure to be applied to the wound.~~

Claim 2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said porous pad has an elongated hole to accommodate [[said]] a drainage tube fluidly connecting the vacuum canister to the porous pad.

Claim 3 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pores of the second average size are vacuum compatible.

Claim 4 (ORIGINAL): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said porous pad is fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam and polyether foam.

Claim 5 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pores of the first average size are no larger than 100 microns in diameter.

Claim 6 (ORIGINAL): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said dressing cover is made from an elastomeric material.

Claim 7 (ORIGINAL): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising an antimicrobial agent in contact with said porous pad.

Claim 8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said porous pad is formed by spraying a nontoxic chemical substance into [[said]] the wound whereby said chemical substance foams up to conform to the dimensions of [[said]] the wound.

Claim 9 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said pores of the first average size are formed by placing said porous pad in a liquid coating material.

Claim 10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A porous wound [[pad]] dressing for facilitating the healing of a wound in mammals comprising:

a porous body adapted to be positioned in contact with the wound and to be fluidly coupled to a suction pump for providing a ~~distributing~~ negative pressure to [[a]] the wound, said porous body [[and]] having ~~at least a partial~~ an outer surface and an inner body, [[said]] the outer surface being adapted for contact ~~of a surface of said~~ with the wound and having pores therein of a first average size ~~and material modifications to enhance biocompatibility, said porous pad to be introduced into said wound with said outer surface adjacent said wound and secured in or on said wound and secured in contact with said wound by a dressing cover for providing a seal around said wound and said porous pad~~, [[said]] the inner body having pores of a second average size, wherein [[said]] the second average size is greater than [[said]] the first average size; and~~, wherein the porous pad is adapted to communicate with a negative pressure source.~~

a dressing adapted to cover said porous body and the wound for providing a seal to contain the negative pressure.

Claim 11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The porous wound pad of Claim 10 wherein said porous pad is formed by spraying a nontoxic chemical substance into [[said]] the wound whereby said chemical substance foams up to conform to the dimensions of [[said]] the wound.

Claim 12 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein [[said]] the outer surface and [[said]] the inner body are joined together to form a unitary assembly.

Claim 13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The porous wound pad of Claim 10 wherein [[said]] the outer surface and [[said]] the inner body are joined together to form a unitary assembly.

Claim 14 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said seal is air-tight.

Claim 15 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The porous wound pad of Claim 10 wherein said seal is air-tight.

Claim 16 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one filter interposed between said canister and said pump.

Claim 17 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said pump is connected to said canister through a hose.

Claim 18 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The therapeutic apparatus of claim 8, wherein the nontoxic chemical substance is at least partially a gas.

Claim 19 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The porous wound pad of claim 11, wherein the nontoxic chemical substance is at least partially a gas.

Claim 20 (CANCELLED).

Claim 21 (NEW): An apparatus for stimulating growth of tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a suction pump for providing a reduced pressure to be applied to the tissue;

a porous pad fluidly coupled to said suction pump for distributing the reduced pressure to the tissue, including a porous body having an outer surface and an inner body, the outer surface being adapted for contact with the tissue and having pores therein of a first average size, and the inner body having pores therein of a second average size, wherein the second average size is greater than the first average size; and

a canister fluidly connected between the porous pad and the suction pump to collect fluids drawn from the tissue by the reduced pressure.

Claim 22 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein said pores of the second average size are vacuum compatible.

Claim 23 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein said porous pad is fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam and polyether foam.

Claim 24 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein said pores of the first average size are formed by placing said porous pad in a liquid coating material.

Claim 25 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein said pores of the first average size are no larger than 100 microns in diameter.

Claim 26 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 further comprising a dressing adapted to cover said porous pad and the tissue for providing a seal to contain the reduced pressure, wherein the dressing is made from an elastomeric material.

Claim 27 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said seal is air-tight.

Claim 28 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 further comprising an antimicrobial agent in contact with said porous pad.

Claim 29 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein said porous pad is formed by spraying a nontoxic chemical substance onto the tissue whereby said chemical substance foams up to conform to the dimensions of the tissue.

Claim 30 (NEW): The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein the outer surface and the inner body are joined together to form a unitary assembly.